THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Subscribers are not opting out of the BSNL's basic services. But there are 13.44 lakh disconnections/surrenders of telephones during 2001-02 and 17.94 lakh during 2002-03 due to following reasons :

- Compulsory filing of Income Tax return, which has now been removed by the Government.
- Switching over from landline to cellular and WLL phones.
- Surrendering of extra telephones due to improved availability and reliability of phones.
- Recession in economy and other financial reasons.
- Closure of firms.
- Shifting/transfer of customers to other places.
- Surrender of OYT and Tatkal Category telephones to get refund of deposit on account of improved availability of telephones in general category.
- Personal reasons. (Death, Retirement, Marriage etc.)

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) A study for disconnections/surrenders of telephones will be undertaken after empanelment of marketing research agencies, which is in process.

(d) The number of subscribers added to the BSNL's basic services during the last two years 2001-02 and 2002-03 for rural, urban and metro are as under :

Year	Rural	Urban	Metro	Total
2001-02	23.31	25.76	1.88	50.95
2002-03	19.73	01.70	0.70	22.13
TOTAL	**43.04**	**27.46**	**2.58**	**73.08**

Extension of Local call distance limit

†4966. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that Governent consider a 'call' as 'local call' which is made by subscribers within the distance of 200 kms;

(b) if so, whether this facility does not apply to the inter-State calls even if the distance between the called and the caller is only two kms;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to extend the ambit of local call facility for an inter-State call made within the distance of 200 kms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir. Any call within a distance 200 kms can not be considered as a local call. Local call is a call which originates from subscribers of a service provider network/exchange system in a Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) and terminates either within the same SDCA, or in the contiguous telephone exchange system of the adjacent SDCA.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Postal facilities in Rajasthan

4967. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new post offices sanctioned and set up in the rural areas of Rajasthan during 2001-02, district-wise; and

(b) the places identified where the post offices are likely to be opened in next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) District-wise details of new post offices sanctioned and set up in the rural areas of Rajasthan during 2001-2002 are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(b) The identification of places where new post offices are likely to be opened, is undertaken on an annual basis. Approval in next few years would be subject to availability of requisite resources and proposals that fulfils the prescribed norms.